

# **OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

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## **State Energy Council & Green Government Steering Committee Friday November 21, 2008 Minutes**

### **State Energy Council**

#### **1. Legislation**

- a. Some to deal with Energy Efficiency and Transmission: What we would may propose transmission issues. How we deal with moving for higher capacity primarily wind from Dakotas and Northern Iowa to demand centers. Midwest Independent System Operators are doing a study about the technology. MISO is also doing a joint study. They direct generation. FERC.
  - i. Website to explain is with Joan Conrad.
- b. Administrative Legislation: Chapter 473 of the Code authorization for Energy Bureau at DNR will be changed over to OEI. We would also like to transfer the FTE's as well.
- c. Energy Efficiency: Looking at ways to go back to where we went last year on trying to set the stage for energy efficiency actions by the utilities. The utilities resisted this legislation last year. They are trying to go somewhere with studies on their own.
  - i. Mandated studies
    - 1. Utilities will use their own renewable energy programs.
    - 2. Municipal's and REC on expanding their own programs
- d. Local Government Bonding and Property Tax process
  - i. Sonoma County came to see OEI a few weeks ago about their system where they make financing available on retrofitting energy efficiency. Makes money available to

borrow after audit through bonds you pay it back slowly through property taxes slowly on a bond.

- ii. They met around town to see what we would have to do around here. They discussed the public purpose bonds for private purpose and how problematic it could be. The bonds will stay with the structure not the owner. This would decrease the cost of living in the house. Need to find a way for rate payer money to go to the people are paying the rates
- iii. Discussion of getting funding through the Community College funding through Power Fund for the training? The travel would have to be paid for by city and counties but could the training would covered by this funding? They would have to come up with a professor to teach the courses. Community Colleges would provide the venue and announcements.
  - 1. This has been discussed time and time again to have investor own utilities that municipal's would benefit from.
  - 2. You could present this as an interim step until the Municipal's and REC's can do the education on their own.
  - 3. DPS could put the Community Colleges in contact with the people they need to know for conducting the training. The educated guess of people who would attend the training 300-400. Two day program.

## 2. Other Business

- a. Legislation could be proposed to get a special rate to wind developers, solar, biomass, to get small alternative energy up and going. For wind developers under approx 20 mw.
- b. The Energy Plan: Navigant report and Organizationally the Enterprise Team. The plan must be delivered by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Snapshot on where we are and where we should go and for the discussion in the next year. Legislature and the public will see the plan.

- c. Trying to figure out where we are in MGA effort on the treaty of Milwaukee. The five signatory states and Manitoba working towards a second stage. Pointed toward regional cap and trade or transmission. Energy codes were discussed.
- d. University of Iowa has created an Office of Sustainability. Is there a way for us to do anything together? There is a Sustainability Task Force. Rolling something out in the next couple of months to the board. Thought of getting Interns if they offer them to get help for various projects. ISU set Gold LEED standard as the GOAL. Joan Racki is going to do some further investigation into this item.

### **Green Government Steering Committee**

- 1. Task Force Meeting Updates- Meetings have been concluded until after the survey is completed by every state agency.
- 2. Survey Update & Corrections- A rough draft of the survey will be sent out to each member of this committee to look over and make any last minute suggestions and changes before distribution.
- 3. Other Business
  - a. DAS server consolidation: Tom Shepherd- DAS recently consolidated into only five servers to run all of the necessary data and programs for the state.